

# MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT AND MISAPPLICATIONS OF PLAGIARISM TECHNIQUES

---

**Abstract:** Plagiarism is regarded as the act of "taking credit for or benefitting from somebody else's ideas, words, concepts, formulations, etc. without giving due credit by means of referencing or quoting, and presenting work for personal benefit which does not contain individual authorship (Brown University Writing Centre 2015). In this paper, I will present to you some misunderstandings about and misapplications of plagiarism techniques. And how some journals and universities use tools to detect something they call "Citations Ratios" instead of plagiarism.

**Keywords:** Misunderstandings, misapplications, plagiarism, techniques

**Mahmoud A. Mansy, PhD**  
Full Professor of Educational Psychology  
Faculty of Education  
Alexandria University  
Egypt  
Contact:  
E-mail: dr.mmansy@yahoo.com

**Mourad Ali Eissa Saad, PhD**  
Full Professor of Special Education  
Vice president of KIE University  
Kie University  
Egypt  
Contact:  
E-mail: profmouradali@gmail.com

---

## INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism can take different forms including: “copy and paste” without quotes and acknowledging the source; patch-writing; providing wrong or incomplete citation or references; presenting or citing the secondary source as a primary source; ghost-writing; purloining; and contract cheating (Ellis, Zucker and Randall 2018; Zafarghandi, Khoshroo and Barkat 2012).

Plagiarism occurs when someone: 1) uses words, ideas, or work products; 2) attributable to another identifiable person or source; 3) without attributing the work to the source from which it was obtained; 4) in a situation in which there is a legitimate expectation of original authorship; 5) in order to obtain some benefit, credit, or gain which need not be monetary (Jerebet al. 2018).

## HOW PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND AND MISAPPLY PLAGIARISM MEANING

I witnessed some vague and strange acts by, I can say, some scientific journals in certain countries. Those people, unfortunately, misunderstand plagiarism meaning. Let's state the definition of plagiarism here again with certain focus on certain points in this definition:

"Taking credit for or benefitting from somebody else's ideas, words, concepts, formulations, etc. without giving due credit by means of referencing or quoting, and presenting work for personal benefit which does not contain individual authorship"

From the above-mentioned definition, quoting somebody else's ideas, words, concepts, formulations, etc. with giving due credit by means of referencing or quoting cannot be plagiarism. I think it is illegal to write sentences and attribute them to someone else that he/she did not say them this way. What is considered to be plagiarism is taking credit for or benefitting from somebody else's ideas, words, concepts, formulations, etc. without giving due credit by means of referencing or quoting, not the opposite.

## EXAGGERATION IN PLAGIARISM

Some journals exaggerate in checking what they call "Plagiarism" to appear as if they color each

word the author has written, as in the following excerpt:

### Example 1.

It was hypothesized that there were differences in post-test scores mean between control and experimental groups on The Picture Vocabulary Size Test. Table 1. shows data on ANCOVA analysis for the differences in post-test mean scores between experimental and control groups in word recognition. A significant difference was found between the two groups on post-intervention scores on the word recognition test [ $F(1) = 384.466$ ,  $p = 0.000$ , partial eta squared = .872].

Table 1: ANCOVA analysis for the differences in post-test mean scores between experimental and control groups in word recognition.

Source	Type III Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Pre	2.672	1	2.672		
Group	784.181	1	784.181	384.466	0.01
Error	116.161	57	2.040		
Total	911.000	59			

The following excerpt is from plagiarism checking by a journal. The author presented the dimensions that the original author used in his scale. The author adopted and referred to the original author when he described the scale. However, the journal team coloured each word as follows:

### Example 2.

Rhyme Recognition, Rhyme Application, Oddity Tasks—Beginning Sounds, Oddity Tasks—Ending Sounds, Oddity Tasks—Middle Sounds, Blending Body-Coda, Blending Onset-Rimes, Blending Phonemes, Segmenting Onset-Rimes, Segmenting Phonemes, Phoneme Deletion, Phoneme substitution—Beginning Sounds, Phoneme Substitution—Ending Sounds, Phoneme Substitution—Middle Sounds).

## SELF - PLAGIARISM

It said " when the author has added research on a previously published article, book, contributed chapter, journal, and presents it as a new without acknowledging the first article or taking permission from the previous publisher". (Yam Bahadur Roka, 2017). Although some authors have permissions from the publishers of their previously published works, and they refer to this in their current articles to be published, some educational systems (those who are responsible for checking plagiarism in certain countries) regard writing someone's own ideas and thoughts to be plagiarism, and write this under "Self Plagiarism"

### Example 3.

This is consistent with the perspective that " the traditional methods used in our schools do not guide students as individuals towards materials, tasks, and do not provide the appropriate challenge for their potential and abilities to appear, which may make students hate the school as a whole, and the materials taught to them in general"

Preventing a person from using his/her words, thoughts, and observations on the grounds that this plagiarism is unacceptable.

#### WE ARE TEACHING STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS TO PLAGIARIZE

*Paraphrasing.* Paraphrasing is a common type of plagiarism in which students/author/researcher comes to alter a few words but retaining the same sentence structure the original author used. Sometimes, it goes undetected. In my opinion it is "The hidden defect" because, in order to avoid plagiarism, students/author/researcher resort to this method. In our Arab world, for instance, each underlined word from detecting tool is counting.

*Mosaic Plagiarism.* Mosaic Plagiarism happens when a new author uses the previous article text by replacing, reordering or rephrasing the words or sentences to give it new look without acknowledging the original author (Yam Bahadur Roka, 2017). In my opinion, this is a dishonest act as students/author/researcher uses words to deceive and convince the readers that he has not stolen another authors central idea, or inspires others that this is his original ideas.

#### FINAL REMARKS

- Although iThenticate® is one of the common plagiarism detection program that has access to nearly 226,000 journals, detects major copies, articles where the text has been rephrased or substituted by synonyms (known as Rogeting after Roget's Thesaurus), it may fail to detect the copies (Yam Bahadur Roka 2017). Students need to be learnt to be honest in giving due credit the others' ideas, words, concepts, formulations, etc. by means of referencing or quoting.

- Plagiarism is not and cannot be synonymous to citation ratio. Some systems consider giving due credit the others' ideas, words, concepts, formulations, etc. by means of referencing or quoting plagiarism. Accordingly, they teach researchers and students to steal and plagiarize without their awareness, where students paraphrase sentences to appear differently from the original source and if it carries the meaning intended by the original author in order to avoid citation ratio. All this is considered unethical

unless students /researchers write the ideas in their own words depending on their understandings of the text.

- In the Islamic sciences, such as the science of prophetic Hadith, it is impossible for the researcher to change what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, so he/she may fall under the weight of the large percentage of the quotation, and his/her research is exposed to be rejected accordingly.

- In the educational sciences, the researcher may follow a specific model for one of the authors. Therefore, he may write all parts of the model, especially if that model carries the training aspect. What can the researcher do? The researcher will be shocked by the so-called plagiarism or what we call the error rate of quotation, hence his effort and effort are in vain.

- We need to re-consider the concepts, especially the difference between plagiarism and the concept of quotation ratio, and if what the researcher wrote is plagiarism and when it is not so.

#### REFERENCES

- Brown University Writing Centre., *What is plagiarism?*  
<http://library.brown.edu/libweb/plagiarism.php>  
 (Accessed 3 May 2015).
- Ellis, Cath and Zucker, Ian and Randall David " The infernal business of contract cheating: understanding the business processes and models of academic custom writing sites". *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 2018 14(1):1 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40979-017-0024-3>
- Jereb, Eva and Perc, Matjaž, Lämmlein, Barbara, Jerebic, Janja, Urh, Marko, Podbregar, et al. "Factors influencing plagiarism in higher education: A comparison of German and Slovene students". *PLoS ONE*, 2018, 13(8): e0202252.
- Yam Bahadur Roka "Plagiarism: Types, Causes and How to Avoid This Worldwide Problem" *Nepal Journal of Neuroscience*, 2017(14):2-6.
- Zafarghandi A M., Khoshroo, Fatemeh, and Barkat B. "An investigation of Iranian EFL master's students' perceptions of plagiarism". *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 2012 8(2): 69-85.